



THE FLYER

Salisbury University's student voice

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Greek Week promotes SU chapters, despite Kappa Sigma suspension



Sigma Phi Epsilon photo
Sigma Phi Epsilon brothers celebrate Greek Week after a game of flag football against the other fraternities on campus.

BY SHANNON WILEY
Staff Writer

Salisbury University's Greek Life celebrated their annual Greek Week from April 26 to last Friday, with many competitions and all-Greek events.

Greek Week takes place every spring and includes a week of events at which fraternities and sororities can earn points and create a friendly and sportsman-like atmosphere that fosters new connections among organizations, according to SU's Greek Life. At the end of the week, all chapters come together for a barbeque and an awards ceremony. This year however, fraternity Kappa Sigma was placed on interim suspension following alleged inappropriate behavior during one of the Greek Week events.

While Greek Life members are not currently permitted to speak about the issue it has been confirmed that the suspension was a result of Kappa Sigma brothers dancing in a suggestive manner in front of women on stage and then spraying them with whipped cream, actions that could potentially violate the university's code of conduct and sexual harassment policies.

Though this violation means that three fraternities have been suspended at SU over the past few years, many students in Greek organizations feel

"It's a good way to get all of the Greeks together to participate in a little friendly competition and it's really fun to do. You really feel the support of all your sisters and brothers."

- Jordan Smith, Phi Mu freshman

that this year's Greek Week was a fun and unifying time for their chapters.

This year, the week kicked off on Saturday with the all-Greek Banner contest outside of Purdue Hall and a swim relay in Maggs Gym.

On Sunday, SU's fraternities and sororities competed in soccer games, and that same day they competed in flag football.

Monday's events included volleyball games, and on Tuesday an all-Greek Karaoke Contest.

On Wednesday, fraternities and sororities competed in basketball games and Thursday held Frisbee competitions.

Finally, on Friday, the last two events took place. First there was an All Greek Tug-of-War, followed by an All Greek Chariot Race in the quad.

"My favorite was karaoke because it was fun to see all the creativity from all of Greek Life, and to see how we can support each other through the lyrics in the music while competing to be called the best," said Delta Gamma freshman Caitlin Lohman.

At 5 p.m. on Friday Greek Week concluded with the barbeque and awards ceremony where Alpha Sigma Tau took first place for the sororities, and there was a tie for champion between fraternities Sigma Phi Epsilon and Sigma Tau Gamma.

Many of the events are popular among the chapters, but the Karaoke and Tug of War competitions seemed to be the favorite among participants.



Sigma Phi Epsilon photo
Fraternities battle it out in a volleyball match held during SU's Greek Week.

"I only went to Karaoke because I had a crazy week, but that would have still been my favorite, anyway. The different fraternities and sororities had really entertaining and funny performances," said Phi Mu freshman Jordan Smith.

The week overall was a success in many participants' views.

"(Compared to past years) I thought it was good," Sigma Phi Epsilon senior Mike Szyjka said. "Even though I didn't really participate this year." Although it was only her first year at SU and in Greek Life, Smith also enjoyed the week.

"I thought it was really cool," she said. "It's a good way to get all of the Greeks together to participate in a little friendly competition and it's really fun to do. You really feel the support of all your sisters and brothers."

But Kappa Sigma is currently in jeopardy of losing that support.

Currently, the fraternity is awaiting definitive repercussions, and no Greek members are permitted to speak about what happened or the consequences given from the school, however an anonymous source said that the chapter is in risk of being suspended next year as well as being charged with sexual harassment because of their dance during the Karaoke performance.

"I have friends in Kappa Sig and I don't want to see them in a bad position, but there's no room in Greek Life for anything inappropriate," said a Greek member who preferred to remain anonymous. "Greek Week was a success, though, nonetheless."

Delta Sigma Theta adds to Divine Nine

BY JUSTIN MCCLURE
Staff Writer

The addition to Delta Sigma Theta, an African American sorority, has rendered SU's Divine Nine presence greater in April 2014.

The Divine Nine is a series of nine African American fraternities and sororities that have been in place since the early 1900s.

Five fraternities and four sororities make up the group including Iota Phi Theta, Delta Sigma Theta, Zeta Phi Beta, Sigma Gamma Rho as well as those represent at SU which are Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, Phi Beta Sigma, Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta.

Twenty-five members make up the new sorority, but getting the organization on campus was not an overnight process, said Sara Lowery, Coordinator of Student Life.

"I'm excited. Any time we add to our family it's good, that's what's important to me," Lowery said. "We're heavily women dominant here, and this gives them one more option to be a part of something while they're in college."

Delta Sigma Theta, along with the other fraternities and sororities, will have various responsibilities to fulfill. Part of the university's Greek Life mission statement includes developing community and philanthropic outreach, maximizing leadership potential and maintaining the self-development of each member.

The organizations also participate in an event known as Greek Week. This weeklong event pits fraternities and sororities against each other in various events like karaoke, flag football and banner competitions. An awards ceremony and barbeque concludes the week's festivities.

A member of Sigma Pi, freshman Dan Burkoski said he thinks the addition of a new sorority is great for the campus community.

"SU's Greek life is a welcoming group of organizations that offers a place for all SU students to fit in and feel one with the community," Burkoski said. "I believe a new African American sorority is a great addition to Greek life."

Although it is an African American sorority, members of all ethnic backgrounds are encouraged to join any fraternity or sorority they wish. At SU, many Greek life chapters have members of Caucasian, African, Hispanic and Middle Eastern descent.

Like Burkoski, senior Tyler Post said the move takes every student's aspirations into consideration.

"It's a good thing that there is a strictly African American sorority coming to SU if, for some reason, any African American students felt left out of Greek life in any way," he said. "There isn't any reason anyone of a certain race should be excluded."

Delta Sigma Theta will be expected to maintain and demonstrate the same set of principles and values that other organizations have to.

"I hold all Greeks to the same standard of holding true to their code of conduct and making sure they're consistent with what their missions of sisterhood, brotherhood and friendship," said Lowery. "When they fall short, we correct them."

The next move for the university will be focusing on bringing a Latino sorority to campus, giving more opportunities to students wanting to get involved in Greek culture.



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Racist comments from Clippers owner sparks debate

BY JACOB TROXELL
News Editor

Racist remarks toward African-Americans made by Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling got him banned for life from the National Basketball Association last week, and have stirred up the opinions of many about where racism is in today's culture.

An audio recording of Sterling and his girlfriend was released by TMZ and included the Clippers owner telling his girlfriend that he was upset over a photo she posted on Instagram, which pictured her and NBA Hall-of-Famer Magic Johnson at a Clippers game.

"It bothers me a lot that you want to broadcast that you're associating with black people," Sterling said in the recording. "Do you have to?"

Last week was also Salisbury University's 19th annual Multicultural Festival Week where campus community members expressed what motivates them in life. Numerous performances were held and the president's diversity awards were presented to different SU students, faculty and staff.

NBA players and many others have shared their opinions since Sterling was banned for life, and some people feel that Sterling's comments are an example of how racism is still present in today's society.

"It surprised me that a man in the NBA of all sports would say that," said sophomore Brian Kragler. "I was very relieved that he was forced to sell the team and I agree with the NBA's decision to ban him for life. Racism has always been here and will always be here."

Some SU students say they have even witnessed racism themselves.

"I've dealt with racism and most of it has been since I've been at Salisbury," senior Robb

White said. "People are accepting the fact that they are supposed to accept everybody, but they are not accepting everyone. The minute (someone) doesn't accept one person they stereotype them, and begin believing the stereotype applies to everyone like them, letting racism grow."

Before NBA Commissioner Adam Silver announced Sterling's Punishment, rumors circulated that the Golden State Warriors were going to boycott game 5 of their playoff series against the Clippers.

"If it were me I would have a very hard time stepping on the court and making money for a man that had little respect for me and my teammates," said sophomore Will Drozdowski. "Racism is still alive today, but far more prevalent in our parents' generation than our own. We as a society certainly are not at the point where Americans treat one another solely by their actions, instead of their ethnicity. But I feel that Salisbury students do a better job of treating each other equally than many other Americans."

While some areas in the United States have one sided populations, the city of Salisbury consists of a 55 percent white population, 32 percent African-American, seven percent Hispanic and four percent Asian. Although SU's Multicultural Festival was last week, some students would also like to have events dedicated to all races uniting as one even more often.

"In order to limit racism I feel that first we as a society need to stop associating stereotypes with people before getting to know one another," said sophomore Chris Hook. "Maybe (SU can) have a racism awareness week (also) and promote togetherness between races and show everyone that even though we are diverse we are still one."

MyClasses contract over, other programs researched by SU

BY JUSTIN MCCLURE
Staff Writer

Further developments in the status of MyClasses have prompted the university to call upon the assistance of students and faculty come May 2014 because in June 2015, the contract that allows the university to utilize the Blackboard Inc. learning management system is set to expire.

University officials now face the predicament of renewing the contract with Blackboard Inc., or beginning to look for another platform that allows the campus community to access their academic materials.

A request for learning management system proposals was established through the University System of Maryland on April 9. By May 8, the university will know what products are up for review.

The campus community is being encouraged to help the nine member review committee test potential vendors' products from Blackboard Inc., Instructure Inc., Desire2Learn, Moodle, and BrainHoney.

Student, faculty and staff testing will begin on May 19

and end July 13, with the final decision coming July 25.

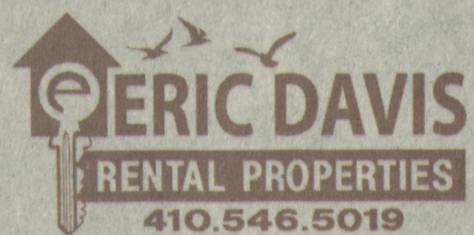
"The biggest thing is that this is your voice as a student (and faculty member)," said Melissa Thomas, Manager of Instructional Design and Delivery. "The learning management system touches upon academic life; this is an opportunity for everyone to help use the tools that will be made available through their courses."

Learning management systems deliver educational programs and activities via web, mobile device and other media platforms, and as Melissa Thomas maintains, the integration of new technologies is crucial to academic success.

"You're going to have those who are looking for something new and improved," said Thomas. "People and what they don't like when they constantly use a product, but with change comes the additional task of learning something new; we want everyone's perspective."

For those interested in volunteering, sign up can be done on the MyClasses review website at www.salisbury.edu/instructionaldesign/lmsreview/.

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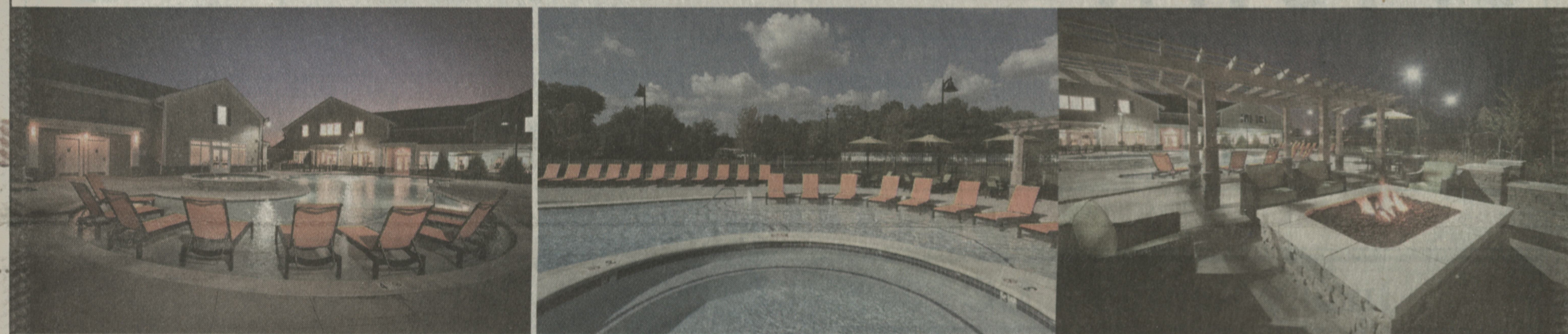
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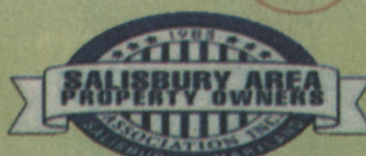


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EDITORIAL

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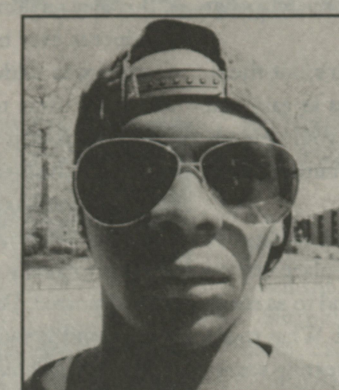
Overheard: What are you looking forward to most about summer break?



"I'm looking forward to having some money because I haven't been working all semester."
— Jackie Deluise, freshman



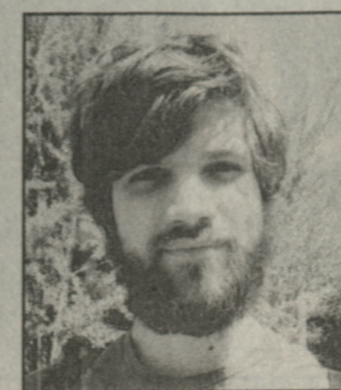
"Having time to relax and enjoy the fact that I am out of school."
— Mario Orellana, sophomore



"No homework."
— Dallas Jordan, junior



"I'm graduating so I'm looking forward to having a job and being out in the real world."
— Katherine Mooney, senior



"No more school work, and getting together with my family again."
— Cornelius Fletcher, junior

The Flyer

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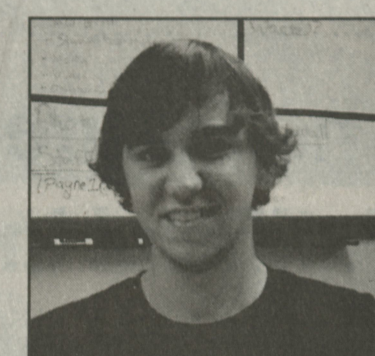
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The Flyer strives for accuracy and corrects its errors immediately. If you believe The Flyer has printed a factual error, please email us.

A more politically active SU



BY STEVEN CENNAME
Editorial Editor

Election? What election?

That was the title of a list compiled by the Princeton Review where Salisbury University landed in the top 10 as one of the least politically active campuses a number of years ago and has remained there ever since. Since then, SU's administration and political science department have pursued many projects in order to get the campus community to be more politically active. However, no matter how many people try different avenues of recruitment, there is no doubt that getting this community politically motivated is a very difficult task. Although not impossible.

Actually, the rates political activity in its most basic form—voting—is actually not as bad as you might think. According to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University, 77 percent of SU students are registered to vote as of the 2012 elections, which is a little above the national mean of 73 percent.

However, being registered does not mean much if you do not take advantage of your right to vote. When it comes to actual voter turnout, the numbers for SU are not as good as those for registration. According to the CIRCLE data, only 41 percent of SU students turned out to vote in 2012, which is below the national average of 46 percent. We are not as far below the mean as I initially thought, but still below it nonetheless.

Being above the voter registration average is not entirely surprising, as Maryland is one of the easiest states in which to register to vote. Every time I have been to the Department of Motor Vehicles since I turned 18, someone has asked me if I would like to register to vote. On top of that, almost every high school across Maryland runs voter registration drives—which is how I got registered.

Ever since SU dishonorably landed on the Princeton Review's list, there have been some changes made to political engagement initiatives on campus. One of the first steps was a restructuring and rebuilding of the Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement, also known as PACE, which is still ongoing.

Recently, the Fulton School of Liberal Arts and the political science department have been interviewing candidates for the position of director of PACE. One of those candidates, Juanita White, met with students to discuss her ideas on getting SU more politically active.

"PACE can play a role in getting students more politically active by being less of a stand-alone program," White said. "It needs to be

more intertwined into the curriculum as well as finding things that are meaningful in the community."

White said PACE should help students build resumes with things they have done for the community and highlighted the importance of knowing the candidates for the statewide races as well as knowing the local politicians.

In a way, she is right. When someone knows a politician on a personal level, they are less likely to view politicians as distant figures with little connection to the community. Knowing what candidates and local politicians stand for will provide a greater incentive to support candidates, as generalizations about politicians are often a reason why college students are very politically apathetic. Politicians are the most visible representations of politics, and when students have a negative view of politicians, they will have little incentive to be politically active.

Also, knowing the local politicians is an effective pathway to political engagement because their campaigns are often the easiest to get volunteer jobs with. Local politicians are the most accessible. If you send an email to the president, you will most likely get an automated response. When you send an email to the mayor or a city council member, you will most likely get a personal response.

Political science professor and former PACE director Adam Hoffman places an improvement in campus political activity as a high priority and says that there are many ways for students to transition into a politically active life with the help of professors.

"Teachers need to be involved in getting students outside the comfort zone of the classroom," Hoffman said. "Faculty in individual classes need to link political engagement and politics in classes across disciplines."

Hoffman said he recommends that students pursue political internships during their college careers.

"Once students catch the political bug through internships, they're often hooked on political engagement and public service for life," Hoffman said.

As a political science major and president of SU College Democrats, I know how hard it is to encourage people to join political groups and activities, especially on years when there is not a presidential election taking place.

One of the major problems is recruitment. Many students do not even know that College Democrats and College Republicans exist on campus. Just getting the word out about a political group is difficult, as the only way is really through an email from Student Activities that many people just delete anyway and hanging up posters, which can be ubiquitous to the point where students' eyes just gloss over them and see them as permanent fixtures of the background.

But even when students do see the emails and the posters, political apathy often prevents them from taking the next step and joining College Democrats or College Republicans.

As SU alumnus and political activist Chuck Cook puts it, "SU is

the most politically apathetic campus in Maryland. Hands down."

Obviously, some of the causes of political apathy are nothing that anyone at SU can do anything about—that is a negative view of politicians and the current environment of gridlock in Washington D.C. There is little SU can do about the gridlock, but we can convince students that there is more to politics and policy making than the rising partisanship in Washington.

Another reason for political apathy on campus is location—again something SU can do little about. A large percentage of the SU student body is from the D.C. and Baltimore areas, cities with the finger on the pulse in the political world. When students from these areas come to SU on the remote and isolated Eastern Shore, they become detached from the more political environments of D.C. and Baltimore, causing many to lose the interest in politics that they once had.

I do not have a car of my own, so I think it puts me at a disadvantage when I cannot drive home to Montgomery County on any given weekend to interview for an internship in Capitol Hill. A phone interview is not as effective of a way to portray my strengths to those interviewing me than interviewing face-to-face is. Being limited to phone interviews has at times made me feel isolated from the city where my dream jobs are.

Many students may feel the same way and therefore do not have the opportunity to pursue a political internship.

But perhaps the major reason for political apathy that SU can do something about is the lack of knowledge of the skills of politics and political engagement. The largest hurdle of political engagement is when one simply does not know much about politics. Students may not want to talk politics because they do not know how to talk about it and may shy away out of fear of sounding stupid.

The solution draws back to what Hoffman said about incorporating politics into the classroom across all disciplines. Students need to learn the skills of political engagement and politics, which involves learning the basics of executive and legislative politics on the national, state and local levels.

Also, students need to learn how to effectively argue for their beliefs when discussing them in a political setting. This involves learning the tools of persuasion, advocacy and argument. This can easily be implemented across all disciplines—particularly in the liberal arts.

Incorporating these policies into the classroom will play a major role in easing political apathy and inactivity among the SU student body. If we political junkies really want a more active campus, we have to do more than just get out the vote. We have to make people want to care about politics and educate them on how politics affects their everyday lives.

Students need to know that what the media often refers to as "women's issues," "minorities' issues," and "economic issues" are actually everybody's issues.

When the SU community realizes that, we will easily make it off the "Election? What election?" list.

Comment of the Week

This comment was posted in response to the April 29, 2014 article "Muslim students offer roses, peace."

Posted by Youssef El Ashmawi.

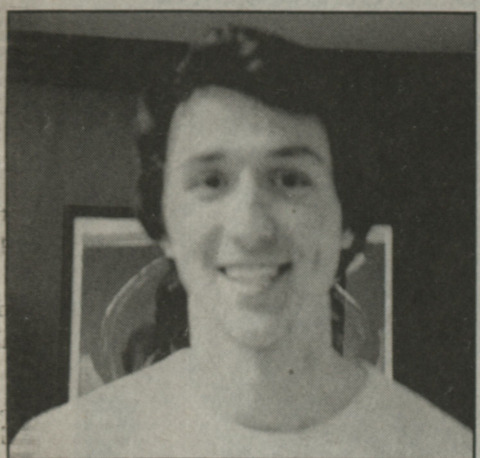
"May Allah reward them for their efforts. And thank you for reporting this story."

Want to have your voice featured on Comment of the Week? Then go to www.thesuflyer.com or our Facebook page and comment on any of our articles—past or present—for the chance to be published in print. Comments can include your name or they can be anonymous—either one will have a chance at being featured.

Correction:

In the Overheard section of the April 29, 2014 edition of the Flyer, two names were not attributed to the correct respondent's picture. The responses from senior Sarah Decker and senior Lacy Hudson were with the other's picture. The names should have been switched.

Snapchat: Where it went wrong



BY CHRIS KRAUSS
Staff Writer

I have a confession to make: I am a Snapchat junkie and proud of it. Until recently.

A good majority of you can probably confess to something similar, finding some odd sense of enjoyment in one of the millions of different social networking sites such as Tumblr, Facebook or Twitter. But none of these seem

to do it for me like Snapchat did. I got some kind of rush when I woke up in the morning and I saw a notification symbol on the Snapchat icon.

For all of you non-Snapchatter's out there, Snapchat was simple. Using it was as easy and fluid, making connecting with your friends around the world as simple as a button press. Notice the past tense.

Essentially, Snapchat was text messaging with pictures, allowing you to draw and place text on the photo that you would then send to as many other Snapchatters as you wanted. What made Snapchat different from actually texting someone was that the user could set a time limit on the photo, spanning anywhere from one second to ten seconds, and after the set time was reached the photo was instantly deleted. Sharing a moment had never been this painless before.

Of course, things had to start getting more complicated. It started with the addition of video recording. Now, it wasn't just photos that would be shared, it was full videos that could last up to ten seconds too. However, this was-

n't stretching the lines too much, simply extending the initial use a little further.

But they couldn't stop there, knowing that no product is ever truly perfect, so a "My Story" feature was added to Snapchat. This would allow for users to post multiple pictures and videos onto their profile for any of their friends to see for the next 24 hours. This added to the product too, basically allowing me to mass snapchat everyone on my contact list without having to really think about who would see what I posted. Perfect for a college kid who is always on the move, right?

All of these additions improved Snapchat and never really strayed away from what Snapchat was supposed to be from the beginning. That was until the most recent update, on May 1 for phones and May 4 for other devices, was released and allowed to complicate a perfect system.

The easiest way to describe my feelings for the most recent update is rather similar to that feeling you get when you stick your untangled headphones into your pocket and the next time you pull them out they're nothing short of a hot

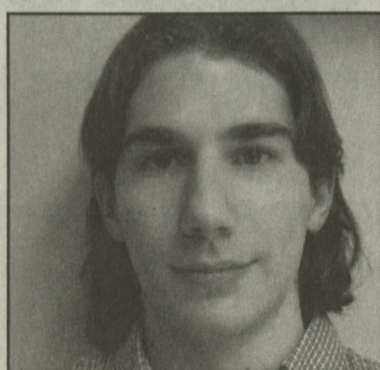
mess. Bottom line, Snapchat fucked up.

A decision was made to incorporate live video chatting and instant messaging, hoping to bring a well-rounded experience to the user. It didn't. The concept, at the core, might have been genuine and filled with good intentions to better a product, but it backfired so intensely that I am one Snapchat away from quitting cold turkey.

The interface now feels clunky and poorly designed, eliminating the previously smooth and seamless interface. On top of this, why do I need to live video chat or instant message people from Snapchat? I have an iPhone that has text messaging and Facetime (for video chatting), so don't give me something so utterly redundant and poorly put together when I already have something that works perfectly fine.

Now, I don't hate Snapchat, I'm just on a hiatus in hopes that over the next couple weeks, they get back on their A-game and take the new features away. Sticking to the old model was simple and simplicity not only works, but also sells. There is no reason to fix something that wasn't broken to begin with.

The Future of Artificial Intelligence



BY KYLE SHAW
Staff Writer

Artificial Intelligence has been an ongoing sociological and philosophical topic over the decades as explored by scientists and science fiction media.

Today, as the digital age has skyrocketed technological advances, we rely more heavily on computers to enhance and convenience our daily lives. Given the rate of innovations and ambition in making formerly fictitious concepts into reality, it is not unfeasible to expect development of true AI in our lifetimes. While we have the chance in the beginning of this new frontier, humanity must undergo serious self-reflection before exploring further into such wildly unknown territory.

The benefits that await in untapped potential of the advance towards AI ultimately depends on the intended place it would have in society. Surely, there would be grander expectations beyond household servitude or personal companions. Governments may aim to capitalize on the supercomputers for national security intelligence (at the risk of raising privacy rights issues).

Militaries would likely weaponize them, especially since we already employ combat drones to identify and neutralize faraway targets. Police forces would use them for enforcement and investigators would rely on them for accurate data assessments. Perhaps in the civilian sector they would assist the disabled, elderly and impaired.

Already, there are several concerns. In terms of ethics, we need to know the point where these machines (assuming they would take a humanoid form), become smart enough, perhaps smarter than their creators, and be considered people and not property. A line must be drawn between using a device such as a smart phone to find a local restaurant and demanding a machine capable of free will to complete tedious chores.

If we create them to serve us or enrich our society, when do we undermine these intentions by going through the rigorous debates and court cases in defining what rights they would be entitled to? Simple oversights exist when considering the implementation of AI such as whom would they be available to, where they could be taken in public, and whether

they could travel alone.

Is it right to use their intelligence to inflict death upon an enemy in wars, essentially becoming a glorified version of Rock 'em Sock 'em Robots? Are we prepared to ask Siri for directions and have her return with an inquiry regarding whether or not she possesses a soul? There needs to be regulations and barriers in place before the discovery so humanity can prepare itself to adjusting to life with AI.

Advancement of technology always has unintended consequences, regardless of its original function. Text messaging revolutionized modern communication, but now texting and driving is just as or more dangerous than drunk driving. The flashlight was innocently invented to help us see in the dark, but even it was made into a lethal weapon that projects harmful rays as a non-lethal weapon.

I'm not saying "I, Robot" is the guaranteed scenario. But at what point can we, as people, realize we should be smarter than to create something smarter than ourselves, and why must our creations inadvertently end so many lives?

My skepticism and mistrust lies not with the machines, but the humans that would hastily inflict them upon us before their time. To humor the Man vs. Machine scenario, we could not blame AI for war with them; we would let it happen and have to react after the fact. Consider Mass Effect, a video game universe where an alien race created a synthetic AI race, named the Geth, originally to serve them as simple tools. Their creators, the Quarians, pushed too far and made the Geth too intelligent. They began asking questions of their purpose and reality. When the Quarians deemed the Geth too smart for their own good, they waged war and lost their home planet, moving their entire people to a mobile flotilla as a species of vagabonds and vagrants.

While that is science fiction again depicting absolute worst-case scenarios with a bit of hyperbole, it is an example worth citing for the sake of treading lightly. With each passing generation, there is a deeper seeded obsession and dependency on technology. It is embedded in our culture and some go as far as to claim it already enslaves us with a subtle indoctrination that renders us unable to physically function without reacting to any felt vibration by checking for any notifications or messages.

I am not against innovations, especially if they can serve a higher purpose in actually saving lives rather than ruining or ending them. As we progress further toward supercomputers and AI, we have the opportunity to, just as we did before changing war forever with the atomic bomb, to look at ourselves in the mirror and ask what is best for us.

Our View

Print may be dying, but not in colleges

"Print is dead," is uttered so frequently in media circles that it has entered the realm of common knowledge.

There's little doubt that print is on the decline. Newspapers everywhere from the New York Times to the Montgomery County Sentinel are cutting back on staff. Many people just see no reason to pay for a copy of the Washington Post when the articles are all online for free.

Print media on college campuses, however, is a different story. Print editions of college newspapers, especially at smaller schools like Salisbury University, are read much more frequently than the same articles on their websites. The Flyer is no exception.

We conducted a poll recently that found that a whopping 93.33 percent of the students who do read The Flyer read the print edition instead of the online version. The poll was conducted online, which eliminates any pro-print bias and makes the results even more conclusive of how the students and faculty prefer their college newspaper.

A reason why print media in college is not declining like its mainstream counterpart is that at most schools, the college newspaper is free and found in many campus buildings. There is nothing to lose monetarily with reading a college newspaper in print and there is nothing much to lose time-wise either.

In fact, transitioning to online would cause many students to read our articles less frequently.

"We conducted a poll recently that found that a whopping 93.33 percent of the students who do read The Flyer read the print edition instead of the online version."

I look forward to getting The Flyer in print every week because I can conveniently pick it up right on the way to my dorm," senior Mary Leach said. "I am not going to go out of my way to read articles that are exclusively online."

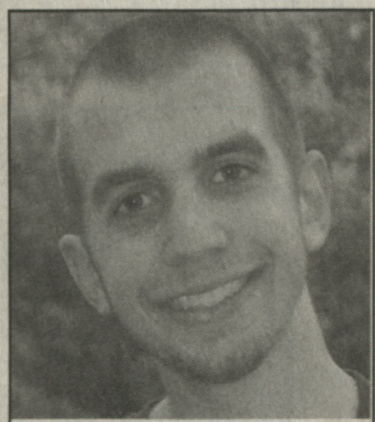
This preference for print in college media is not limited to SU either. Colleges that members of The Flyer staff have visited recently show no signs of cutting back on print issues.

Johns Hopkins University, Ohio University and American University all publish weekly and maintain a strong print edition. The University of Kentucky has two papers — one the official school newspaper and a school's version of "The Onion." The official newspaper publishes daily and usually has empty stands by the end of the day. All of these school papers mentioned are free.

Maintaining a strong website is still very important, but it should not be done at the expense of how most students read The Flyer. A Flyer iPhone app is being considered for next year, but before cutting back on print, we need to first ensure that the app will function properly.

So, as our advisor considers slashing the number of print issues in half for next year, pushing us back to an issue even two weeks instead of every week, it should be kept in mind that it is not what our readers have indicated that they want.

The strange beliefs of monotheists



BY MICHAEL FITZGERALD
Staff Writer

The age of the human species is disputed among anthropologists and evolutionary biologists, but they all agree that *Homo sapiens* came into existence as long as a quarter of a million years ago.

Our ancestors first migrated out of Africa around 75,000 years ago, as a result of a catastrophic volcanic crisis, which reduced total population to only a few thousand.

The subsequent decades were full of our struggle to settle, let alone prosper. A large majority of people during this era died at birth. Otherwise, the life expectancy of the time was about 25 years. Most people died of the teeth of other rival tribes, before eventually laying the basis for a peaceful civilization. Until then, humans faced famine, struggle, bitterness, war,

suffering, misery and other senseless barbarism for decades upon end.

In order to be a Christian you must believe that for the first 73,000 years or so of this, heaven watches with complete indifference; with folded arms; as entire civilizations rise and fall at the mercy of our savagery, and then only 2,000 years or so ago decided that it is time to intervene.

So what does heaven decide? To condemn someone to a human sacrifice in the less literate, most nomadic, lesser developed civilizations in the Middle East. Not to the Chinese, where people at the time could read, study evidence and have a civilization. No, no need for that.

If you are a Christian, you have to believe that. But even if you read this article, I wouldn't be surprised if I'm faced with opposing views that claim that evolution is not true. Well, I guess if they are so sure that the theory of evolution is bogus, then hopefully they think the same way about the theory of gravity, but I don't see them jumping off buildings. If people who do not believe in evolution get flu shots, they do not know why they have to get them every year, as mutation and evolution of the virus is the reason why it is recommended that one gets the shot on an annual basis.

If you believe any of these concepts, please explain how heaven watched from afar with indifference for most of human history, because I am very curious as to how monotheists will defend this belief.

GULL LIFE

Volume 44, Issue 12

May 6, 2014

Sea Gulls Fly

BY JESSICA GOODELL
Staff Writer



Photos courtesy of Emily Lewis
Top: SU junior Emily Lewis began flying planes at the age of 14. Bottom: Lewis with her father, who first taught her how to fly.

Junior geography major Emily Lewis began flying planes at 14 and became a private pilot when she was 17.

Since then, she has obtained an instrument rating, tail wheel endorsement and high performance endorsement. She completed her commercial written test and has gotten her multi engine license.

This summer, she is entered in the Air Race Classic 2014, which is a race for female pilots. "I love flying because it makes me happy," Lewis said. "By participating in this race, I want to inspire others to accomplish their dreams as well."

Lewis' grandfather started a small airport in Williamstown, New Jersey in 1954, which is now known as Cross Keys or 17N. He taught most of his children to fly, including Lewis' father, who is now a captain for American Airlines.

When Lewis was 14 her father bought a small plane for their family. Both of her older brothers began taking flying lessons from her father, and then from her current instructor, Bob McGuigan, and as the only girl, and the youngest she was jealous of them and wanted to fly as well. She said it was her dream to be an airshow pilot and that learning to fly would be a good start to reaching that goal.

She began taking lessons from her father, but she said that an important family lesson was learning that it is not a good idea to let your father teach you how to fly. She said lessons progressed with him until they got into a slight argument about controlling the plane and she then began taking lessons with her current instructor. She said though her father has not been her primary instructor, he still has done a good portion of her training.

She flew alone for the first time on December 31, 2010 and took her check ride, which is comparable to a driving test, to become a private pilot in the summer of 2011.

Since she became a private pilot she has been adding rankings and on April 1, 2014 she obtained her multi-engine license that allows her to fly a larger plane in the race this summer.

Lewis is entered in the Air Race Classic with her teammate Alicia Sikes. They are team #48 and are known as the "Friendly Fliers."

The race begins on June 16 and ends on June 19, and they will be flying from Concord, California to New Cumberland, Pennsylvania.

"This race is the opportunity of a lifetime," Lewis said. "I can't believe I get to fly myself across the entire United States at only 20 years old. This is only the very beginning of the career I'm striving for in aviation, and I cannot wait to see where it takes me."

When Lewis was young she learned about the weather in school and that inspired her to be a weather-woman when she grew up. She is a geography major with a track in atmospheric sciences and environmental and land use planning.

She is currently running a blog in order to keep people updated on her journey. She said the purpose of the blog is to keep her friends, family, and loved ones informed of her goals and progress as she tries to create a unique path of life that involves both weather and aviation.

"I hope to inspire other young people, especially women, to follow their goals and dreams in life and especially encourage the field of aviation," Lewis said on her blog. "It's a lost passion for many and a slowly dying field. It's up to the people of my generation to keep everything going, but it's also a lot more than that. It opens the door for many opportunities, and it is a great environment to meet some of the most interesting people you can."

Lewis is currently continuing her journey as she prepares for her race. She is raising money to help fund race fees, arranging hotels and rental cars and doing paperwork and flight planning for the race with her teammate. Lewis currently has her plane in Salisbury so that she is able to practice her flying as she continues to work on her commercial license.

"Flying runs in my family," Lewis said. "And it also gives me a feeling of accomplishment. The whole flight is an adventure and I feel on top of the world, literally, whenever I'm headed somewhere."

Campus Against Violence peer education program returns



Steven Cennane photo
Campus Against Violence and Greek Life come together to make a Unity Ribbon.

BY STEVEN CENNAME
Editorial Editor

After a period of inactivity, Campus Against Violence has transitioned from a peer education program conducted by the Counseling Center to an entirely student-run Registered Student Organization.

After the Campus Against Violence peer education program was terminated by the Counseling Center due to a lack of funding and staffing resources, a group of Salisbury University students decided to keep the message alive by forming an RSO reminiscent of the former program.

"It has not been easy to transition from a program with full support and funding of the Counseling Center, but it has been rewarding in the sense that everything this semester has been completely student run," said senior Daria Baylis, president of CAV. "We have found a voice that is distinctly our own by becoming a RSO and it has

also given other student organizations the chance to work with us, side by side."

The group's motto is a unifying rallying cry around an issue that affects many people in colleges all across the country — STAND UP. SPEAK OUT. EMPOWER OTHERS. BREAK THE SILENCE.

Last month, CAV and many organizations in Greek Life, including Zeta Tau Alpha, were able to come together to form a human teal ribbon, which Baylis referred to as a Unity Ribbon, in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The event was coordinated by CAV with support from Greek Life and Student Activities.

"I hope all students can be a part of Campus Against Violence in the future," Baylis said. "It's an issue that should concern everyone."

For those interested in joining Campus Against Violence, contact president Daria Baylis or Vice President Jessica Kelly.

CAMPUS CHIC

Sunny Style

BY KARA KINNAMON
Fashion Columnist

Ever notice how there are only two seasons in the fashion world, fall and spring?

Of course designers realize winter and summer exist, but these two opposing seasons get lumped in with their neighbors. Some designers have remedied the need for summer-tailored options by offering a resort wear collection. However, this isn't too common for the more accessible retail.

We all do just fine finding appropriate clothing to wear in the winter and summer months but notice how trends are weaker in these areas causing people to lose interest in making their wardrobe a statement during these extreme seasons.

Summer is of course one of my favorite seasons as a basking in the sun extraordinaire. While the scorching hot weather limits many fashion choices it allows other pieces that aren't appropriate the other nine months of the year (depending where you live).

Obviously swimsuits are at the top of that list. Usually much more basic, swimwear has become more varied and trendy in appearance this summer season.

As far as two-piece swimsuits, cut outs, embellishment and busy prints are very in. Floral, tribal, tropical and lace are really big for two pieces and allow for mixing and matching. I personally don't love to wear prints on my bottoms, so I mix printed tops with solid, colorful bottoms.

Embellishments are great for girls with small chests who want to create a more busty illusion. This could include fringe, rhinestones, flounce and sequins. Flounce tops are really in this season especially for those with a more bohemian style.

are one way to create a more complex and edgy look with a one-piece. The simple versions are great too, and are usually made with a more durable and structured fabric that really shapes your body.

Bathing suit cover-ups have also become much more fashionable. Mesh rompers, tank dresses, and translucent robes are all great ways to accessorize your beach or pool look.

One reason I love summer is for its predictability. No matter what you know it is going to be hot. The temperature also creates a more imposed casual look that seems so much more effortless in the summer. I love to just throw on a t-shirt dress or romper with some jewelry and my hair pulled back and I know I'll have a flawless summer casual look.

Another great aspect of summer fashion is this unknown rule where it is the one season where wearing heels or wedges with shorts is okay. This is a great casual look for the daytime especially if you are going somewhere like Seacrets to enjoy their day hours.

Into the night, replacing those with shorts of a more formal material, summery dress, or a skirt is simple and easy because you don't have to worry about being cold. It is the easiest time of the year to get ready to go out.

The final reason I love summer, besides not having school, is the effortless beauty aspect. Your skin is so much more moisturized and easy to deal with. Casual summer outfits don't demand a full face. Throwing on some light bb cream or tinted moisturizer with a dash of highlighter and mascara is the epitome of a natural summer look.

Don't get bogged down by the jorts and t-shirt look summer seems to eventually yield. Summer style is the easiest and most freeing so make a conscious effort to feel your best everyday. Besides, you never know who you'll encounter this summer.

Multicultural festival week fosters global awareness at SU

Multicultural Student Services, SOAP, the Multicultural Alliance, Residence Life Diversity Team and Student Affairs united last week to promote acceptance of different cultures around the world.



Darby Dicks photos

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SPORTS

Volume 44, Issue 12

May 6, 2014

Men's and women's lacrosse win CAC championships

Men's lax topples
York, wins 18th
CAC title

BY MITCHELL NORTHAM
Staff Writer

The Salisbury University men's lacrosse team traveled to York just over a month ago on March 22 and left the Pennsylvania campus with a narrow 11-8 victory.

"We're focusing on the big picture; we're trying to get to Baltimore."

- senior midfielder
Donovan Lange

"Whenever (York) cleared the ball they always brought those two (midfielders) way down," Sea Gulls Head Coach Jim Berkman said. "Last game we were letting (York) get that ball right in the middle of the box."

In front of 932 fans on Saturday at Sea Gull Stadium, the Sea Gulls were able to stop the Spartans' attack; walking away with a 12-8 victory and the program's 18th Capital Athletic Conference Title.

While senior midfielder Donovan Lange led the way on offense with three goals, the defense led by senior Zeke Smith and junior Knute Kraus allowed just four goals on 18 shots and shut down one of the conference's top offenses. Kraus forced two turnovers while Smith forced three as the two battled against York's top three scorers.

"Our defense has been great all year," Berkman said. "We just had good matchups with that group we were playing against today; Zeke (Smith) was phenomenal in the middle of the field."

Salisbury started off the game with a 4-0 run, and headed into halftime ahead of York 8-2. The Sea Gulls had the Spartans on the ropes going into the third quarter and were ready to execute the third quarter game plan that Berkman had laid out.

"The emphasis at halftime was that we wanted to win the first five minutes and shut (York) out in the third quarter," Berkman said. "Going up 12-2 kind of put the game away."

SU held possession for nearly the first eight minutes in the third quarter while adding four more goals to their total and shutting York out in the period. The Spartans were able to get back on the board with two goals in the fourth quarter, but couldn't stop the clock from winding down and the Sea Gulls from adding another conference title to their trophy case.

"It feels good to bring (the CAC title) back to Salisbury," Lange said. "But we're focusing on the big picture; we're trying to get to Baltimore."

M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore, Maryland will host the NCAA Division III men's lacrosse final this year, and the Sea Gulls have earned an automatic bid into the tournament.

"I don't know how we couldn't be a number one seed," Berkman said. "That means we'll get a bye and play next Saturday here; we're excited that we won that home field advantage."

The Sea Gulls earned a bye and will host the second round against the winner of the first round York-Susquehanna University game on Saturday.

The NFL offseason is almost always a spectacle for the Washington Redskins. From firing head coach Mike Shanahan in January to pouncing at the chance of signing Pro Bowl wide receiver Deshaun Watson once he was turned loose on the open market by the Philadelphia Eagles in April, the team has found a way to keep things entertaining in the early part of 2014.



Adam Dunn photo

Senior attack Rhett DePol cuts around York to make a run for the goal. DePol netted two goals and gave two assists, leading SU in points alongside classmate Luke Phipps.



Adam Dunn photo

Senior midfielder Brandon Kendrick celebrates with the netting CAC championship victory with teammates.



Adam Dunn photo

Junior attack Kate Haker makes a run down the field, netting the first goal only 58 seconds into the first half. She would add another early in the second half also.



Adam Dunn photo

The Gulls conquered the Spartans' defense in both halves of the championship. SU totaled 25 shots, 20 on goal while York shot 19 times, 13 on goal.

Women's lax earns
12th straight CAC
title, 14th overall

BY KOLBY MALY
Staff Writer

As the Salisbury University women's lacrosse team took the field on Saturday, they knew what was at stake against a very familiar opponent.

It marked the third straight season Salisbury and York College met in the Capital Athletic Conference Championship game.

"We definitely know them a little bit better than any other team," said senior goalkeeper Ashton Wheatley. "You kind of get used to some of the players and their moves."

No. 2 Salisbury (18-1, 7-0 CAC) triumphed to a 13-6 victory over No. 13 York (14-4, 6-1 CAC), claiming the program's 12th straight CAC title and 14th overall.

"It's always been our first goal of every season, we want to win the conference to give us the automatic bid to the national tournament," said Head Coach Jim Nestor. "It's all about the hard work that we do throughout the year that can result into a night like tonight."

Junior attack Kate Haker got the Gulls going with a goal less than a minute into the game. The two teams would trade goals to get the score tied at 2-2, before Salisbury went on a four-goal run to seize momentum of the game.

Junior midfielder Bethany Baer and senior attack Shelby Nemecek each scored a goal during the run, while senior Shannon Carta scored two of her own.

"With being a senior it's huge to be able to keep the momentum at this point in the season," said Carta, who scored four goals that day. Nemecek would add another goal after her hat trick before the half as the score stood 7-3 at the break.

"We tried to limit some of the touches their better players got," Nestor said. "We were focused on their offense really all week, we were prepared for them."

York came out of the gates into the second half looking determined to get some momentum back and make the game close. However, the Gulls once again used another four-goal run to distance themselves further away from the Spartans.

Haker and Baer both added their second goals of the game during the run while Junior Kara O'Rourke and Senior Katelyn Blondino each scored goals of their own as well. Wheatley saved six Spartan shots in the second half to help anchor the defense.

"We didn't want to drop the intensity at all, we wanted to go hard throughout," Wheatley said. "We played well and played hard, we can take that into regionals."

Now with the CAC title and automatic bid going into the NCAA tournament, the Gulls await their first opponent.

"Coming off the loss we had against Cortland has definitely put a fire under our butts," Carta said. "What it comes down to is heart now, I think we all have that and we don't want to go home."

SU POMS alumni to be Redskins Cheerleaders

BY DAVID CABERA
Staff Writer

The NFL offseason is almost always a spectacle for the Washington Redskins.

From firing head coach Mike Shanahan in January to pouncing at the chance of signing Pro Bowl wide receiver Deshaun Watson once he was turned loose on the open market by the Philadelphia Eagles in April, the team has found a way to keep things entertaining in the early part of 2014.

One of the other offseason events that gains a lot of publicity around the organization is the cheerleader auditions.

This year, there were two former Sea Gulls vying to be among the group of women who could call themselves the First Ladies of Football.

Shay Ferris ('09), a double major in Accounting and Corporate Finance during her time at Salisbury University, was on Dance Company for all four years and was an initial member of SU's POMS Dance Team in October 2008.

After graduation, she jumped right into the work force. The next year, she studied for and attained her CPA license.

"(After getting the license) I just wanted to get my life back and do things that I like to do," Ferris said. "Basically I studied for a year and didn't do crap."

She began researching teams and happened to fall upon the Redskins, a team her family loved for as long as she could remember.

"My family had grown up being Redskins fans, and my grandpa had season tickets for

years up until he passed away and then my dad had season tickets so I've been to plenty games over the course of my life," Ferris said. "I was always fascinated by the cheerleaders and I thought it was a fun thing to do."

Ferris auditioned in 2011, but did not make the team. The next year she was going to audition for the Baltimore Ravens but got engaged. In 2013, wedding planning took up her time so auditions were put on the back burner again.

See REDSKINS on Pg 10

REDSKINS

Continued from PAGE 9

With the wedding out of the way, a senior auditor job at the Universal Service Administrative Company in D.C. and a new year upon her, Ferris decided to give it another go.

She participated in the Redskins' training program in the fall, a four month long class that ran once a week at the team's stadium, FedEx Field.

"It was basically a simulated experience of being an actual cheerleader," Ferris said. "So that way we could be ready for auditions in the spring."

Joining Ferris in the training program was Jade Gonzalez, a 2013 graduate of SU.

Gonzalez was in her second year of the program.

"I would've tried out last year, but I was focusing on graduation," Gonzalez said.

During her time at Salisbury, Gonzalez majored in Sociology and participated in POMS for all four years. She was the president of the organization during her junior year and was the primary choreographer for their showcases in 2012 and 2013.

She was also a member of the Major League Lacrosse's Chesapeake Bayhawks Hawkettes cheerleading team her junior and senior years.

"That second season I got named captain and at the end of the year I was awarded the Most Valuable Player by my coaches, who happened to be former Ravens cheerleaders," Gonzalez said. "During my time there I also got to help the coaches out as far as being a leader and choreographing different dances."

Since graduating last spring, Gonzalez has moved to Chester, Maryland and is currently working at an electrical testing company in



Washington Redskins photo
SU alumni Shay Ferris and Jade Gonzalez see their hard work pay off as their names are announced for the final 2014 Redskins Cheerleader squad.

Crofton.

"I am in the works of becoming a certified Zumba instructor too," Gonzalez said. "I also hope I can go back to school some day and pursue my Master's in Guidance Counseling. Hopefully that'll be in the near future."

With school behind her and a career path forged, Gonzalez jumped back into the training program full throttle, working with the coaches and directors in anticipation of auditions.

Audition day, March 29, finally arrived and all the hard work Ferris and Gonzalez had put in would start with two rounds of auditions against 58 other women.

Both women passed through the auditions, moving on to the next day where they would have to learn three different routines.

They got through the day unscathed, advancing on to the following week.

Monday began with a photo shoot

and the next four days were spent going through rehearsals for the final audition that Sunday.

The final audition day came and the number of women had to be cut down to 36 (plus two alternates). The women had to perform a routine they had learned from the week during the audition as well as a swimsuit photo walk.

Twenty judges took part in the audition and fans were able to participate as well, casting their votes on Facebook and Twitter.

After a lengthy process, the votes were tallied and four months of hard work had paid off for Ferris and Gonzalez as they both made the team. The following week, the duo joined their new teammates for rehearsals in preparation for the season.

With an upcoming schedule that

includes preparing for this week's NFL Draft and a calendar photo shoot May 22, Gonzalez is ready for the ride ahead.

"I am willing to put in the hard work," Gonzalez said. "This has been my dream and my final goal through all my dancing years and I couldn't be more excited."

With the home opener against the Jacksonville Jaguars four months away and the opportunity to perform in front of 90,000 fans, Ferris can't quite picture it all yet.

"What I've heard from some of the veterans is that you can't really explain the feeling until it happens," Ferris said. "I think that some of the thoughts that are going to go through my head will be nervousness; I'll definitely be excited and I'll probably want to cry at the end of it because it'll be over. I just want to absorb it all and maintain that memory forever."

Fleetwood to leave baseball

BY MITCHELL NORTHAM
Staff Writer

There are few college coaches who wear more than one hat for their school's athletic programs, but for the past 14 years Doug Fleetwood has served as the head coach of Salisbury University's baseball team and the assistant head coach on offense and recruiting coordinator for the football team.

But after this baseball season, Fleetwood will hang up one of those hats; he and the university announced last week that he will be stepping down as head baseball coach after the season to focus on football full-time. Salisbury University Athletic Director Dr. Michael Vienna announced the news on April 25 in a press release. In addition, the school will begin a national search immediately to find Fleetwood's successor as coach.

"Salisbury University has been incredibly fortunate to have had Coach Fleetwood as a part of its staff helping two programs which have been among the best in the nation, and we are excited to give him the opportunity to help out the football program full time," Vienna said in the press release. "This is a key personnel move that will help Salisbury continue to align itself with the other top baseball programs in the nation, with a coach dedicated to that program."

Fleetwood remained optimistic about the move and views the transition as a benefit to the baseball team.

"This is a win-win for everybody here," Fleetwood said. "It gives these guys a chance to have a full-time baseball coach, which they've never had here before; I've always been split between the two and guys go through fall practice and half the time I'm not even here."

Even though Fleetwood may have missed a few fall practices, his success as the baseball team's head coach has been among the best in Division III history. In 14 seasons, he has compiled a 467-145-6 record and his .761 winning percentage in that time is second among active Division III coaches and ranks sixth all-time.

During Fleetwood's time as head coach the team has won 11 Capital Athletic Conference Titles, earned 15 trips (including this season) to the NCAA tournament and three appearances in the World Series. Although it's his last season, the goal remains the same for Fleetwood and the players.

"I expect them to go out there and continue to work hard and try to win a National Championship," Fleetwood said. "I don't think I'll get anything less than that kind of effort from them."

Fleetwood has excelled in coaching both football and baseball over the years and before arriving at SU he coached both sports at Cambridge South-Dorchester high school. As a football coach he led CSD to three state championship victories and was elected to the Maryland High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2003.

He'll shift his focus to the football field full time now for the first time in over a decade. After a successful spring practice, he's excited to get back to coaching football in the fall and sees his transition as an advantage to the football team as well.

"The kids that you coach, regardless what sport you're in, they deserve to have you full time," Fleetwood said. "I'm really excited about it; we had a great spring practice and we feel like it's going to be a really good group of guys."

Fleetwood is the third coach in recent years at Salisbury to give up one coaching duty to focus on another. In 2012, Margie Knight stepped down from coaching volleyball to focus on softball and Jim Nestor stepped away from women's soccer to give all of his attention to the Sea Gulls' women's lacrosse team.

Both Knight's and Nestor's successors had winning seasons in their first year as head coaches; Kwame Lloyd led the women's soccer team to a 10-6-4 record while Justin Turco led the volleyball team to a 29-6 record. Fleetwood won't be involved in the hiring process, nor will he return as an assistant under the new coach, but he thinks the baseball program is in good hands.

"I think what will happen is that someone will take over this really good program and it's going to get even better," Fleetwood said. "I think it's a win-win and that's how we have approached it."

Athlete's Health
Playing in extreme temperaturesBY GLEN CAREY
Staff Writer

Exercising outside can take place in a variety of different temperatures, but when the temperature begins to drop there are certain precautions that need to be made in order to maintain safety.

"You have to be bigger than the weather," said Salisbury University assistant athletic trainer Maureen Thompson. "Part of being bigger than the weather is preparation."

Participating and playing sports outside in different types of weather can be challenging. The cold can affect an individual at varying rates. It depends on what the temperature is outside, the wind chill and whether or not you're exercising in wet conditions or dry conditions. Things can begin to go downhill very rapidly within a few minutes if the temperature starts dropping below freezing.

"It is always tough for our players to come off the bench in the middle of a game and go hit when it's freezing outside," said SU head softball coach Margie Knight. "It is always more fun playing when it is warm."

When it comes to playing in the heat, hydration is very important. The SU athletic training staff said they make sure that they are giving their athletes water regularly at practices and games. They educate their athletes on appropriate hydration and the warning signs of heat related illnesses. This education encourages athletes to understand the importance of hydration so they take it upon themselves to use their hydration systems that SU has set up at all of their outdoor facilities.

"I feel it's almost always safe to be outside on a hot day if you've prepared," Thompson said. "Obviously, coaches need to use good common sense if practicing outside on a warm day."

The recommendation for athletes is consuming 17 to 20 ounces of water or sports drink two to three hours before exercise and seven to 10 ounces of water or sports drink 10 to 20 minutes before exercise.

During exercise, athletes should consume seven to 10 ounces of water every 10 to 20 minutes. A typical "gulp" of water or sports drinks equals 1 ounce.

"Playing outside in the cold or even sometimes heat makes us mentally tougher," Knight said. "My girls are used to it and they never complain."

It's important for athletes to train intelligently in warm and cold environments to allow their body to acclimate to the extreme conditions so they can play to their best ability.

Athlete Spotlight: Rachel Johnson



SU Athletics photo

BY MITCHELL NORTHAM
Staff Writer

After a stellar sophomore season in 2013 that included 340 strikeouts and a 29-3 record, Salisbury University women's softball pitcher Rachel Johnson was named as the Capital Athletic Conference Player of the Year and also earned a spot to travel with the national team over the summer.

"It's just so weird to me that it was a year ago," Johnson said. "It was awesome, but it all happened so fast."

Maybe it's just a coincidence or maybe she's just that good, but Johnson was able to perform well enough again in her junior season to earn CAC Player of the Year honors for the second straight year in 2014. So far, in 26 appearances on the mound this season she is 20-2 with three saves and has an earned-run-average of 0.78; in other words, she's just that good.

It should also be noted that Johnson has thrown three perfect games this season, making the total for her collegiate career stand at five; an NCAA Division III record. But as her stats, awards and accolades pile up it's not something that is constantly on her mind.

"I just do the best I can and if that stuff happens it's cool," Johnson said. "I feel like if I try to beat (records) then I would just put too much pressure on myself and I probably wouldn't perform as good."

Johnson wasn't always a pitcher though, she started playing softball when she was

nine-years-old and was a shortstop until she was 13. Her younger sister, Megan Johnson, was pitching before she was, but when Rachel's youth league team didn't have a solid pitcher, her dad told her to give throwing from the mound a try.

The rest is history as the Preston, Maryland native went on to play ball at Colonel Richardson high school and played in some big games for the Colonels as an outfielder and a pitcher. For her, there is a big difference between playing softball at the high school and college levels.

"There's not as much politics in college," Johnson said. "(SU head coach Margie Knight) puts in the people that play the best; everyone had to work really hard to even get on the team."

Even Johnson struggled a bit to catch on in her freshman season, but eventually got rolling and ended her rookie campaign with a 13-3 record and All-CAC second team honors to go with an ERA of 1.19. She also took home her first two CAC Pitcher of the Week awards that season and she now has a total of 16 in her career at SU to go along with three National Pitcher of the Week awards.

After being a member of Sea Gulls team that won the CAC title in 2012 and 2013, Johnson was on the mound against Christopher Newport in this year's championship game, hoping to add another title to SU's collection. Instead, the game would be decided in extra innings and Johnson allowed a walk-off home run that would give Salisbury a 3-2 loss.

"I think it was kind of a reality check for everyone," Johnson said. "We can lose; no one is going to lay down for us."

The Sea Gulls were able to rebound from the loss with a pair of wins over Stevenson to end the regular season and are now preparing for the NCAA tournament.

"We've had a really good season," Johnson said. "I think that we'll do very well if we continue to raise that bar."

In the classroom, Johnson is majoring in elementary education while also minoring in biology and middle school science. She is setting herself up for a career in teaching after college, but some of the teaching she might do may come on the field as a coach.

"I'm going to do something with softball," Johnson said. "It's sad that I only have one more year after this."

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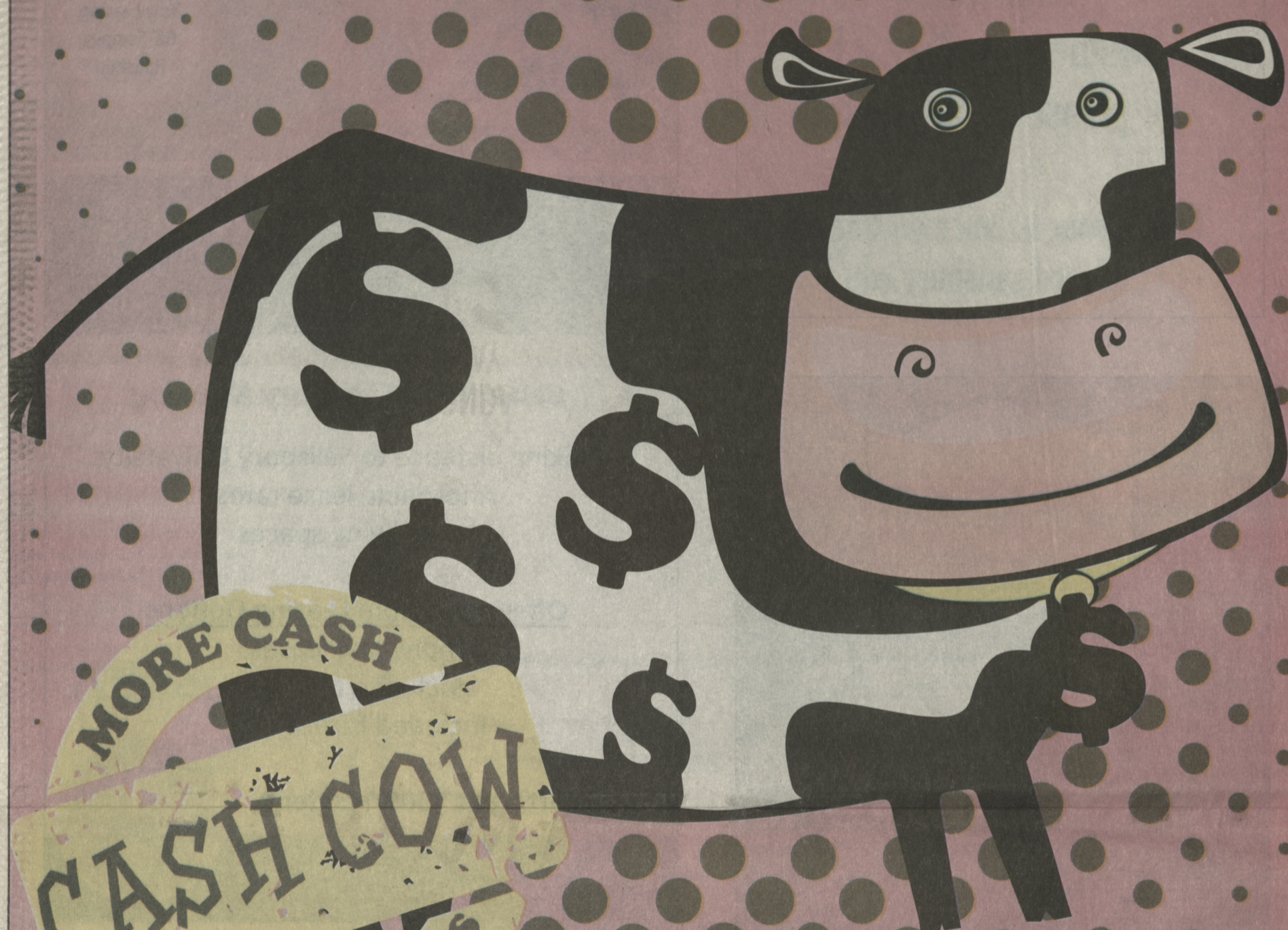
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